

VETERANS BENEFITS AND LONG-TERM CARE

Information is available to veterans on the web at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/> and Montana Veteran's Affairs (MT VA) <http://dma.mt.gov/mvad/>. Here is some information from the VBA and MTVA to get you started:

Do VA benefits cover nursing home care?

VA benefits provide for a range of long-term services including Nursing Home Care, Domiciliary Care, Adult Day Health Care, Geriatric Evaluation and Respite Care. Nursing home benefits may be provided if specific qualifications are met; those are:

- a veteran must be in need of such care and seeking nursing home care for a service-connected (SC) disability, OR
- is rated 60% SC and unemployable, OR
- is rated 60% SC and permanently and totally disabled (P&T) OR for any condition if the veteran has a combined SC disability rating of 70% or more.

The care will be provided in a VA nursing home or contract nursing home (VA facility). Veterans with a compensable service-connected disability are exempt from long term care co-payments. Veterans requiring nursing home care for a service-connected condition or a veteran rated 70% or more have mandatory eligibility for admission to Extended Care Services and those veterans are eligible to have indefinite care provided to them in the VA or in a VA contracted nursing home.

What if I don't meet these criteria?

Veterans without service-connected disabilities and non-compensable zero percent SC veterans can apply for long term care in the VA but could be subject to long-term care co-payments.

Do VA benefits cover nursing home care that is not provided in a VA facility?

The VA will only pay for care which takes place in VA facilities and in nursing homes that participate in its contract program. Veterans and their families should contact the nearest VA facility for information on Long Term Care (LTC). They may also obtain information on Health Benefits at 1-877-222-8387 or on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/elig>

What long-term care facilities are available to veterans in Montana?

Contact your nursing home or facility to see if they participate in the VA contract program.

In addition to VA contracted facilities, there are two Veterans' Administration certified facilities in the state of Montana. They are:

Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls

Phone: (406) 892-3256

Fax: (406) 892-0256

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/services/vethome/MVHHP.shtml>

Eastern Montana Veterans' Home in Glendive

Phone: (406) 345-8855

Toll-free: 1-866-887-3664

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/services/vethome/GlenHP.shtml>

Who is eligible to stay at a Veterans' Home?

To be eligible for admission a person must be an honorably discharged veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States, along with an order from a physician stating that nursing home care is required. More information about admissions and admission forms are available at the facilities' websites.

What is the cost of staying at a Veterans' Home?

Costs are based on the ability of the resident, and are usually less than what is charged in most private or non-profit nursing homes. The Veterans' Administration contributes toward the cost of care for all veterans, and veterans with a compensable service-connected disability are exempt from long term care co-payments. Spouses of veterans do not receive any money from the VA towards the cost of their care.

Can Medicaid help me pay for the costs of staying in a Veterans' Home?

If you apply for Medicaid and are found eligible, Medicaid may pay for all or some of the costs of your stay at a Veterans' Home.

This information is current as of 9/1/2010. Medicaid policies can and do change, and it is the responsibility of the facility and applicant to verify the most current policies when working towards establishing Medicaid eligibility.